

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL PRESENCE IN THAILAND

1. REUTERS TICKER HAS CARRIED AN ACCOUNT OF AN INTERVIEW GRANTED BY PHICHAI AFTER HIS MAY 14 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE. WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR THE SPOKESMAN:

QUOTE

QUESTION: REUTERS IS REPORTING THAT THAI FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT, AT A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE ON MAY 14, THE U.S. PROPOSED "A NEW AND INTERESTING IDEA" CONCERNING THE RAMASUN RADIO RESEARCH STATION IN THAILAND. CAN YOU CONFIRM THE MEETING AND GIVE US SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE U.S. HAS IN MIND?

ANSWER: AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HAD HIS FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING WITH THE NEW THAI FOREIGN MINISTER ON MAY 14.
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THEY DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOME

ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND WHICH WOULD BE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS. INASMUCH AS THESE ARE STILL MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO GO INTO

THE DETAILS.

QUESTION: HOW DOES THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT AFFECT THE WITHDRAWAL OF YOUR PERSONNEL?

ANSWER: OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL CONTINUE TO LEAVE AS THEY WIND UP THEIR ACTIVITIES.

QUESTION: DOES THAT MEAN YOU WILL BE MEETING THE JULY 20 DEADLINE FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL (EXCEPT FOR THE JUSMAG)?

ANSWER: WE ARE WITHDRAWING OUR PEOPLE AS WE SAID WE WOULD IN OUR MARCH 20 STATEMENT. UNQUOTE.

2. THE SUBJECT DID NOT ARISE AT THE MAY 14 NOON BRIEFING. KISSINGER

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